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TARVIN RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

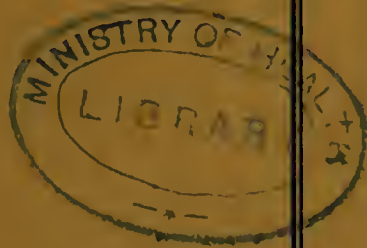
OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the year 1951.



W. J. BIRCHALL,

M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

G. T. WOODS,

M.R.San.I., M.I.San.E., M.S.I.A.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
FOR THE
TARVIN RURAL DISTRICT
For the year 1951.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the Tarvin Rural District for the year 1951. The Joint (Medical Officer of Health) Committee for the Rural Districts of Chester and Tarvin was dissolved by order of the Ministry in October, 1951, and the report is now presented separately.

The National Vital Statistics show a slight decrease in the Birth and Infant Mortality rates; and a slight increase in the Death rates. Locally the Death and Infant Mortality rates are a little higher, and the Birth rate slightly lower than in the previous year.

In the early part of the year there was a considerable amount of Measles (293 cases) amongst young children; and a persistent scattered outbreak of Sonne Dysentery occurred in the central portion of the District (22 cases).

The incidence of other Infectious Diseases was low; and for the fourth successive year no case of Diphtheria was reported.

There has been a gratifying extension of mains water supplies; the Farndon Sewerage Scheme is under construction, and it is hoped that Sewerage schemes for Kelsall, Waverton and Tarvin will not be long delayed. Progress in the construction of new houses was not so good as in the previous year.

It is satisfactory to note the gradual reduction in the number of caravans at Weetwood.

Food premises; licensed houses, have been under careful supervision by the Department, with a view to improvement in hygienic standards.

Included at the end of the Report, is my Annual Report as Divisional Medical Officer on the Personal Health Services operating in the South West Cheshire Division of which Tarvin Rural District forms part.

I wish to thank Mr. Woods, Chief Sanitary Inspector and his Staff for their assistance in compiling this Report, and their loyal co-operation throughout the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

W. J. BIRCHALL, M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

TARVIN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

General Provision of Health Services for the Area

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE:

| | |
|------------|--------------------------------------|
| Councillor | Arthur Hughes (Chairman). |
| " | Charles Moss (Vice-Chairman). |
| " | F. V. Cooke, J.P. (deceased August). |
| " | T. B. Stevenson. |
| " | H. E. Mottershead. |
| " | F. Newport. |
| " | J. Johnson. |
| " | P. Matthews. |
| " | H. Fleet. |
| " | G. W. Penk. |
| " | G. Harding (from November). |

Ex-Officio:

| | |
|---|--|
| " | L. N. Jones, J.P. (Chairman of the Council). |
| " | J. C. Wolley Dod, J.P. (Vice-Chairman of the Council). |

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS:

Medical Officer of Health:

W. J. Birchall, M.B., Ch.B. (Hons.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (London), D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector, Rodent Officer and Petroleum Officer:

G. T. Woods, M.R.San.I., M.I.San.E., M.S.I.A.; Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, R.S.I. and S.I.E. Joint Board; Meat and Other Foods Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute; Certificate of the R.S.I. in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works; Examination of Institution of Sanitary Engineers; Home Office Civil Defence Instructor's Certificate.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors.

G. P. Walpole, M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, R.S.I. and S.I.E. Joint Board, Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.

R. Mason, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I., Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, R.S.I. and S.I.E. Joint Board, Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute, Home Office Civil Defence Instructor's Certificate.

Pupil Sanitary Inspector: G. P. Davies.

Clerk-Typist: Miss Dorothy Hughes.

Junior Clerk: Miss Norma Walker.

Rodent Operative: Mr. E. H. Blackburn.

MEDICAL SERVICES.

(a) Laboratory Facilities.

The services of the Public Health Laboratory Service, Birkenhead, and of Harold Lowe, Esq., M.Sc., F.I.C., Assay Office, are utilised for bacteriological and chemical examinations respectively.

(b) Ambulance Facilities.

Cases of infectious disease are removed to Clatterbridge Isolation Hospital, Clatterbridge. Cases of sickness are removed to the Chester Royal Infirmary or the General Hospital, Clatterbridge, by the ambulances of the Cheshire County Council supplemented by the Chester City Ambulances as an Agency Service.

(c) Nursing in the Home.

There are District Nurses engaged in all the larger villages for attendance on the sick.

The trained Health Visitors of the County Council also visit the homes in the District for the purposes of advice, inspection and assistance under the maternity, child-welfare and tuberculosis schemes.

- (d) **Treatment Centres and Clinics**, including clinics solely for the area are as follows:—

Farndon, Tattenhall, Tarvin, Kelsall and Malpas — Infant Welfare.

Hoole — Ante and Post-Natal, Infant Welfare, Orthopaedic, Dental and Speech Therapy.

Chester — Orthopaedic and Tuberculosis.

Northwich — Scabies Treatment.

- (e) **Hospitals.**

The General Hospital at Clatterbridge is available for residents in the area.

There are, in addition, smaller Cottage Hospitals in the neighbourhood, which receive patients from the area, viz:— Tarporley and Whitchurch.

Larger hospitals are also available in Chester and Liverpool: for example, the Chester Royal Infirmary, Chester City Hospital, etc.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area — 62,593 acres.

| | |
|--|---------|
| Population, estimated by Registrar General, Mid-year, 1951 | 14,630 |
| Number of inhabited houses including shops with living accommodation according to Rate Books (end of 1951) | 4,479 |
| Number of houses built (i.e. completed in 1951): | |
| Private Enterprise | 8 |
| Council Houses | 29 |
| Rateable Value at 1st April, 1951 | £76,584 |
| Product of 1d. Rate at 1st April, 1951 | £300 |

The area is almost entirely agricultural and residential, farming being the largest labour-employing occupation. There are no other large industries.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1951.

Births.

| LIVE BIRTHS. | MALE | FEMALE | TOTAL |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Legitimate | 125 | 98 | 223 |
| Illegitimate | 6 | 9 | 15 |
| | <hr/> 131 | <hr/> 107 | <hr/> 238 |

| | |
|---|-------|
| Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population | 16.27 |
| Registrar General's Comparability Factor for Births | 1.05 |
| Corrected Birthrate | 17.08 |

| STILL BIRTHS. | MALE | FEMALE | TOTAL |
|-------------------|-------|--------|-------|
| Legitimate | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| Illegitimate | 1 | — | 1 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |

| | |
|--|-------|
| Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 live and still births | 28.57 |
| Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population | 0.48 |

TABLE OF COMPARATIVE BIRTH RATES.

| ENG. AND | | | | ENG. AND | | | |
|-------------|------|--------|-----------|-------------|------|--------|--|
| TARVIN R.D. | | WALES. | | TARVIN R.D. | | WALES. | |
| 1936 | 13.2 | 14.8 | 1944 | 17.7 | 17.6 | | |
| 1937 | 15.7 | 14.9 | 1945 | 15.9 | 16.1 | | |
| 1938 | 14.9 | 15.1 | 1946 | 19.5 | 19.1 | | |
| 1939 | 15.7 | 15.0 | 1947 | 20.7 | 20.5 | | |
| 1940 | 15.0 | 14.6 | 1948 | 22.6 | 17.9 | | |
| 1941 | 15.8 | 14.2 | 1949 | 17.9 | 16.7 | | |
| 1942 | 17.6 | 15.8 | 1950 | 18.04 | 15.8 | | |
| 1943 | 18.5 | 16.5 | 1951 | 17.08 | 15.5 | | |

Deaths.

| MALE | FEMALE | TOTAL |
|------|--------|-------|
| 104 | 95 | 199 |

| | |
|--|-------|
| Crude death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population | 13.60 |
| Registrar General's Comparability Factor for Deaths | 0.91 |
| Corrected Death Rate | 12.38 |

TABLE OF COMPARATIVE DEATH RATES.

| ENG. AND | | | | ENG. AND | | | |
|-------------|------|--------|-----------|-------------|------|--------|--|
| TARVIN R.D. | | WALES. | | TARVIN R.D. | | WALES. | |
| 1936 | 13.3 | 12.1 | 1944 | 12.6 | 11.6 | | |
| 1937 | 10.9 | 12.4 | 1945 | 12.9 | 11.4 | | |
| 1938 | 11.5 | 11.6 | 1946 | 13.6 | 11.5 | | |
| 1939 | 13.7 | 12.1 | 1947 | 12.7 | 12.0 | | |
| 1940 | 14.1 | 14.3 | 1948 | 12.3 | 10.8 | | |
| 1941 | 10.7 | 12.9 | 1949 | 11.0 | 11.7 | | |
| 1942 | 10.1 | 11.6 | 1950 | 11.6 | 11.6 | | |
| 1943 | 11.3 | 12.1 | 1951 | 12.3 | 12.5 | | |

Maternal Mortality (excluding Abortion).

From Puerperal Sepsis —
 From Other Puerperal or Maternal Causes 1
 This is the first death from maternal causes since
 1941.

(Registered cause of Death—Obstetric shock following
 breech birth).

Natural increase in population (excess of births over deaths) 39

TABLE SHOWING NATURAL INCREASE IN POPULATION.

| | | | |
|------|-----|------|-----|
| 1936 | 2 | 1944 | 71 |
| 1937 | 50 | 1945 | 57 |
| 1938 | 52 | 1946 | 85 |
| 1939 | 22 | 1947 | 117 |
| 1940 | 13 | 1948 | 80 |
| 1941 | 80 | 1949 | 96 |
| 1942 | 112 | 1950 | 77 |
| 1943 | 104 | | |

INFANT MORTALITY.

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age:—

| | MALE | FEMALE | TOTAL |
|--------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Legitimate | 3 | 5 | 8 |
| Illegitimate | — | — | — |
| | <hr/> 3 | <hr/> 5 | <hr/> 8 |

Infantile Mortality Rate i.e. deaths of infants under 1 year
 per 1,000 live births 33.61

TABLE OF COMPARATIVE INFANT MORTALITY RATES.

| ENG. AND | | | | ENG. AND | | | |
|-------------|------|--------|------|-------------|------|--------|--|
| TARVIN R.D. | | WALES. | | TARVIN R.D. | | WALES. | |
| 1936 | 71.4 | 59 | 1944 | 40.0 | 46 | | |
| 1937 | 70.8 | 58 | 1945 | 58.8 | 46 | | |
| 1938 | 52.2 | 53 | 1946 | 56.5 | 43 | | |
| 1939 | 63.1 | 50 | 1947 | 59.6 | 41 | | |
| 1940 | 53.6 | 55 | 1948 | 46.3 | 34 | | |
| 1941 | 51.2 | 59 | 1949 | 23.1 | 32 | | |
| 1942 | 26.5 | 49 | 1950 | 26.7 | 29.8 | | |
| 1943 | 30.0 | 49 | 1951 | 33.6 | 29.6 | | |

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY.

Deaths of infants under FOUR WEEKS of age.

| | MALE | FEMALE | TOTAL |
|--------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Legitimate | 3 | 5 | 8 |
| Illegitimate | — | — | — |
| | <hr/> 3 | <hr/> 5 | <hr/> 8 |

DEATHS FROM CERTAIN SELECTED CAUSES.

| | MALE | FEMALE |
|---|------|--------|
| Tuberculosis of respiratory system | 1 | — |
| Other forms of tuberculosis | 1 | 1 |
| Cancer of all sites | 15 | 15 |
| Leukaemia | 1 | 1 |
| Intra-cranial vascular lesions | 9 | 13 |
| Heart disease | 40 | 37 |
| Other diseases of circulatory system | 2 | 3 |
| Influenza | 3 | 6 |
| Bronchitis | — | 1 |
| Pneumonia | 6 | 2 |
| Other respiratory diseases | 1 | — |
| Nephritis | 7 | 1 |
| Prostate | 3 | — |
| Congenital malformations; Birth injuries | 1 | — |
| Road traffic accidents | 2 | — |
| Other violent causes | 3 | — |
| All other causes | 9 | 15 |
| Total all causes | 104 | 95 |

Deaths from Cancer (all sites) numbered 30. In the previous year there were 28.

Deaths from Heart Disease numbered 77 compared with 71 in 1950.

Deaths from Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions were 22, there were 28 in 1950.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis during the year, 1951).

| DISEASE | TOTAL | CASES | |
|--------------------------------|----------|-------------|--------|
| | CASES | ADMITTED | DEATHS |
| | NOTIFIED | TO HOSPITAL | |
| Smallpox | — | — | — |
| Scarlet Fever | 15 | 7 | — |
| Diphtheria | — | — | — |
| Enteric and Paratyphoid | — | — | — |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | — | — | — |
| Pneumonia | 44 | — | — |
| Cerebro spinal meningitis | — | — | — |
| Dysentery | 22 | — | — |
| Encephalitis Lethargica | — | — | — |
| Erysipelas | 3 | — | — |

| DISEASE | TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED | CASES ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL | DEATHS |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|--------|
| | | | |
| Measles | 293 | — | — |
| Ophthalmis neonatorum | — | — | — |
| Poliomyelitis | — | — | — |
| Whooping Cough | 31 | — | — |
| Totals | 408 | 7 | — |

NUMBER OF CASES OF DIPHTHERIA NOTIFIED IN THE DISTRICT.

| | | | |
|-----------|----|-----------|---|
| 1936 | 25 | 1944 | 4 |
| 1937 | 10 | 1945 | 5 |
| 1938 | 35 | 1946 | 2 |
| 1939 | 15 | 1947 | 1 |
| 1940 | 27 | 1948 | — |
| 1941 | 17 | 1949 | — |
| 1942 | 9 | 1950 | — |
| 1943 | 6 | 1951 | — |

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and Mortality during the year 1951.

| Age Periods | NEW CASES | | | | DEATHS | | | |
|------------------------|-------------|---|-----------------|---|-------------|---|-----------------|---|
| | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | |
| | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F |
| 0—1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1—5 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| 5—15 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 15—25 | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| 25—35 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 35—45 | 2 | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| 45—55 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 55—65 | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 65 and upwards | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Totals | 8 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | — | — | — |

POLIOMYELITIS.

During the year the Medical Research Council, who are engaged in extensive research into the causes etc. of Poliomyelitis, selected the village of Tattenhall as one of the several areas chosen throughout the country for tests on sewage in relation to the disease.

Sterile swabs were inserted into the sewer at each manhole and left for three days after which they were collected, placed in sterile jars, and sent to the Central Laboratory.

The first such test was carried out early in the year and a similar test repeated during the summer months when the incidence of poliomyelitis is likely to rise.

As can be expected this procedure gave rise to a great deal of work for those concerned and I must record my appreciation of the manner in which the Sanitary Inspectors carried out the tests in co-operation with the staff of the Surveyor's Department.

SONNE DYSENTERY OUTBREAK.

In January, 1951, a case of Sonne Dysentery was notified at a farm in Tushingham. The patient being the farmer's wife aged 40 years.

Ten days later two further cases in schoolchildren on a neighbouring farm were also notified.

Samples of drinking water from the wells concerned were sent for analysis but proved negative. Samples of duck eggs were also analysed but again proved negative.

The dairies receiving milk from these farms were instructed that all milk collected from the affected farms was to be heat treated before distribution for consumption.

The number of cases in Tushingham increased to eight, involving four families. Specimen faeces were collected from all patients and contacts. School children contacts were excluded from school until faeces specimens resulted in a negative report. Three negative faeces specimens were necessary from patients before they were regarded as free from the disease.

As five of the patients were school children attending Tushingham School instructions were given that the pail closets and seats were to be disinfected daily and it was emphasised that the children must wash their hands after visiting the closets. It was hoped that this outbreak would support the Department's recommendations for the conversion of the pails to water closets at this school.

The outbreak then spread to the villages of Tattenhall, Burwardsley, Harthill and Broxton, with 14 further confirmed cases of Sonne Dysentery. The last case being notified in June, 1951.

The sampling of water supplies, collection of faeces from patients and contacts, was carried out as outlined previously. Copies of the bacteriological reports were sent to the family doctors of all patients concerned to keep them informed.

The following figures give a summary of the number and location of cases notified and the number of specimens collected by your Sanitary Inspectors, who made a total of 154 visits in connection with this outbreak. In all, fifty-one persons were involved as patients or contacts.

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Number of cases notified | 22 |
| Number of families concerned | 12 |
| Number of specimens collected | 133 |
| Number of Positive Specimens | 29 |
| Number of Negative Specimens | 104 |

Period of outbreak January, 1951, to June, 1951.

| Parishes Concerned. | Cases in each parish. |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Tushingham. | 8 |
| Tattenhall | 7 |
| Burwardsley | 2 |
| Broxton | 1 |
| Harthill | 4 |
| | — |
| Total | 22 |
| | — |

Samples Collected from households where Dysentery was present.

Drinking Water.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| (a) Shallow well etc. supplies | 5 |
| (b) Mains supply | 3 |

Duck eggs, one collection of 3

Report. All the samples proved free of Dysentery organisms.

Problem Families.

The register of problem families in the District has been reduced by one during the year.

This family was re-housed in 1950 by the Council from a dilapidated farm cottage which was not maintained as well as it could be, but which was in such a state structurally as not to encourage a housewife to be houseproud.

The improvement under better housing conditions was remarkable in this case.

For the first few months frequent calls were made by the Sanitary Inspector to advise, rebuke or praise according to the conditions discovered, and I am happy to be able to record that this family showed a progressive advance in their standard of general hygiene from the time of removing to a good house.

The period between visits has been gradually lengthened until reports showed that this family had been rehabilitated and they can no longer be regarded as a problem. They have been therefore removed from the register of problem families.

Three other cases rehoused are still under report and similar action will be taken if and when sufficient improvement is observed in conditions.

Eight informal notices were served during the year requiring cleansing of houses occupied by problem families.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

(1) Water.

Piped supplies of water are available in the following Parishes of the District:—

| PARISHES. | SUPPLY. |
|---|---|
| 1. Ashton, Mouldsworth and Horton-cum-Peel. | Tarvin R.D.C.'s own source from Springs and Bulk supply from Liverpool. |
| 2. Kelsall, Tarvin, Pryors Hayes, part of Bruen Stapleford, most of Dud-don and Hockenhull. | Tarvin R.D.C. bulk supply from Mid and South East Cheshire Water Board (Eddisbury Bore-hole). |
| 3. Iddenshall and Clotton Hoofield. | Tarvin R.D.C. bulk supply from Liverpool Corporation Vyrnwy Aqueduct per Mid and South East Cheshire Water Board's mains. |
| 4. Tiverton, Tilstone Fearnall and Beeston. | Tarvin R.D.C. bulk supply from Liverpool Corporation. |
| 5. Tattenhall, Huxley and part of Newton-by-Tattenhall, part of Golborne Bellow and part of Hatton. | do. |
| 6. Hampton, part of Edge, Macefen. | do. |
| 7. Malpas, Cuddington, part of Chorlton and part of Wychough. | Liverpool Corporation. |
| 8. Part of Chorlton. | Private Estate Supply, borehole and small reservoir Chorlton Hall. |
| 9. Farndon, Churton-by-Farndon, Churton-by-Aldford and Edgerly. | Wrexham & East Denbighshire Water Company. |
| 10. Part of Edge. Part of Edge. | Private Estate Supply, Edge Hall. Tarvin R.D.C., bulk supply from Liverpool Corporation. |
| 11. Waverton. | Egg Bridge Area — Chester Waterworks Company. |
| 12. Cotton Edmunds. | Eaton Estate — Chester Waterworks Co. |
| 13. Willington. | Willington Estate. |
| 14. Aldersey & Coddington. | Aldersey Estate. |
| 15. Barton, Stretton, Carden and part of Clutton. | Carden Estate. |

| PARISHES. | SUPPLY. |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 16. Harthill. | Bolesworth Estate from Tarvin R.D.C. mains. |
| 17. Bickley. | Tarvin R.D.C. from Liverpool Corporation, Vyrnwy Aqueduct per Mid and South-East Cheshire Water Board's mains. |
| 18. Broxton. | do. |
| 19. Burwardsley. | do. |
| 20. Shocklach (Part). | Tarvin R.D.C. borehole & elevated tank. |
| 21. Tilston Council Houses. | Private — do. |
| 22. Tushingham (Part). | Tarvin R.D.C. bulk supply from Liverpool Corporation. |
| 23. Threapwood. | do. |

The water supplied by the Liverpool Corporation is from the Lake Vyrnwy Aqueduct and has a total hardness of 1.2 parts per 100,000 and pH value of 6.45.

The water supplied by the Mid and South East Cheshire Water Board is from the Eddisbury borehole and has an average hardness of 16 parts per 100,000 and a pH value of 7.5.

The water supplied by the Wrexham and East Denbighshire Water Company is obtained from (a) Moorland gathering grounds, (b) mountain adits and (c) boreholes. The average total hardness is about 8 parts per 100,000 with a pH value of 7.3.

The water supplied by the Chester Waterworks Company is derived from The River Dee and has a total hardness of 7 parts per 100,000 and a pH value of 7.27.

During the year approximately 8½ miles of water main were laid by the Council in the District and in consequence the Council now administer approximately 92 miles of mains.

The additional new mains are as follows: —

| PARISH. | YARDS. |
|--------------------------------------|--------|
| Milton Green and Handley | 4310 |
| Northern Area | 7010 |
| Bradley | 725 |
| Kelsall, Hallowsgate Sec. 11 | 227 |
| Hatton Heath | 933 |
| Malpas Old Hall Street Site | 111 |
| Gatesheath, Tattenhall, Rookery | 207 |
| Newton-by-Tattenhall | 1200 |
| Oldcastle | 300 |
| Newton-by-Malpas | 450 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 15473 |
| | <hr/> |

Particulars of the Number of premises supplied by the Council's mains at December 1951, are as follows:—

| Parish. | Domestic. | Trade. | Total. |
|---------------------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Ashton | 102 | 12 | 114 |
| Beeston | 46 | 24 | 70 |
| Bickley | 57 | 41 | 98 |
| Bradley | — | 2 | 2 |
| Broxton | 95 | 41 | 136 |
| Bruen Stapleford | 7 | 9 | 16 |
| Burwardsley | 49 | 38 | 87 |
| Chorlton | 7 | 6 | 13 |
| Chowley | 2 | — | 2 |
| Clotton Hoofield | 28 | 16 | 44 |
| Cuddington | 12 | 18 | 30 |
| Duddon | 20 | 7 | 27 |
| Edge | 19 | 5 | 24 |
| Golborne Bellow | 20 | 2 | 22 |
| Golborne David | — | 3 | 3 |
| Hampton | 54 | 24 | 78 |
| Handley | 41 | 5 | 46 |
| Hatton | 7 | 6 | 13 |
| Hockenhull | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Horton-cum-Peel | 6 | — | 6 |
| Huxley | 33 | 18 | 51 |
| Iddenshall | — | 2 | 2 |
| Kelsall | 267 | 34 | 301 |
| Larkton | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Macefen | 11 | 6 | 17 |
| Malpas | 332 | 67 | 399 |
| Mouldsworth | 59 | 14 | 73 |
| Newton-by-Tattenhall | 14 | 8 | 22 |
| Newton-by-Malpas | — | 1 | 1 |
| Oldcastle | — | 9 | 9 |
| Pryors Hayes | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Shocklach Church | 4 | — | 4 |
| Stockton | — | 3 | 3 |
| Tarvin | 339 | 66 | 405 |
| Tattenhall | 233 | 65 | 298 |
| Threapwood | 33 | 22 | 55 |
| Tilston | 12 | — | 12 |
| Tilstone Fearnall | 21 | 6 | 27 |
| Tiverton | 133 | 33 | 166 |
| Tushingham | 3 | 7 | 10 |
| Wychough | — | 2 | 2 |
| Shocklach Oviatt | 1 | — | 1 |
| | <hr/> 2074 | <hr/> 625 | <hr/> 2699 |

No. of Standpipes supplied from the mains:—

| Parish. | Number. Consumers. | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|----------|
| Edge | 1 | 35 |
| Beeston | 1 | 19 |
| Hampton | 3 | 20 |
| Newton-by-Tattenhall | 1 | 15 |
| | <hr/> 6 | <hr/> 89 |

Number of premises supplied by other Public Water Undertakings for which figures are available are as follows:—

| Parish. | Domestic Trade Total Undertaking. | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|-----------|
| Waverton | 79 | 8 | 87 |
| Edgerley | 1 | — | 1 |
| Churton-by-Aldford | 50 | 2 | 52 |
| Farndon | 151 | 4 | 155 |
| Churton-by-Farndon | 27 | — | 27 |
| | <hr/> 308 | <hr/> 14 | <hr/> 322 |

Estimated Population supplied:—

| | |
|---|-------------|
| By Tarvin R.D.C. | 9027 |
| By Chester Waterworks Company | 368 |
| By Wrexham & East Denbighshire Water Co. | 920 |
| | <hr/> 10315 |

This represents approximately 70 per cent of the total population of the district supplied by mains water. A number of consumers however are supplied by Estate Supplies, Private Systems, and boreholes, etc. The actual percentage of water consumers with supplies laid on is considerably in excess of this figure.

The following schemes are approved by the Council and the Ministry and for which materials are on order.

| Scheme. | Estimated Cost. £ |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Agden | 8260 |
| Cuddington and Oldcastle | 2350 |
| Edge Lane, Edge | 1116 |
| Golborne Manor Extension | 650 |
| Simonds Green, Edge | 684 |
| Clotton Hoofield and Huxley | 2344 |
| Kelsall, Flat Lane | 390 |
| Kelsall, Common Lane | 695 |
| Threapwood, Tinkwood Farm | 750 |

The following schemes have been approved by the Council and are awaiting Ministry approval.

| Scheme. | Estimated Cost. £ |
|--|----------------------|
| Bruen Stapleford, Old Moss Lane | 2030 |
| Bruen Stapleford, Brookhouse Farm | 750 |
| Tilstone Fearnall | 1430 |
| Crewe-by-Farndon | 3000 |
| Tilston, Lowcross Hill and Hob Hill | 1980 |
| Tushingham | 4100 |
| Clotton Hoofield | 540 |

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

New Schemes prepared to be submitted for approval to the Ministry during the year:—

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Tilston | 550 persons. |
| Malpas Site Sewerage (Extension of existing sewers) | 20 persons. |

Schemes completed during the year:—

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Huxley Housing Site sewerage and Sewage Disposal Works | 16 persons. |
| Tarvin, Hockenhull Lane, sewerage for W.C. conversions | 28 persons. |

Waverton.

Discussions have taken place between the County Council, Chester R.D.C. and this Authority on the scheme for sewerage of Waverton, and the Council has decided to request the Ministry of Housing and Local Government to proceed with the Inquiry into the scheme already submitted to them.

Kelsall.

Work has proceeded with the preparation of the sewerage scheme and sewage disposal works for Kelsall and it is anticipated that this scheme will be presented to the Council at an early date.

Farndon.

Work was commenced on the contract in September and Sewerage works have proceeded with satisfactory progress.

The tunnelling will be started as soon as the general sewers are completed and the Contractor has been able to obtain proficient labour for this type of work.

Construction of the Sewage Disposal Works will be commenced when the weather has settled sufficiently enough to enable the work to be carried out.

The following schemes are in progress:—

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Duddon Sewerage & Sewage Disposal Works | 114 persons. |
| Clutton Sewerage & Sewage Disposal Works | 114 persons. |
| Hallowsgate Sec. 2 Sewerage only | 70 persons. |

REPORT

OF THE

Chief Sanitary Inspector

For the Year ending December, 1951.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE TARVIN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure to submit the following report on the work carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors during 1951.

The increasing demands of the public on the services of the Public Health Staff as well as additional duties consequent on new legislation has necessitated a reorganisation of office and field work so as to give priority to the urgent matters which arise from day to day.

Some of these activities and their results are reflected in the following report.

My thanks are due to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, and to Dr. W. J. Birchall, Medical Officer of Health, and other officials of the Council for their assistance and support.

I must also pay tribute to the loyalty and industry of the staff of the Department which has made possible this report.

Your obedient servant,

G. T. WOODS,

M.R.San.I., M.I.San.E., M.S.I.A.

WATER.

During the year regular samples were taken from every main supply of the Statutory undertakers in the District.

In addition many isolated supplies were sampled for analysis and in cases of adverse results reports were made to your Works and Planning Committee for consideration for mains extension where suitable. In all cases where a polluted supply was found, full investigations on the site were made to determine the source of pollution and its prevention. Reports on certain of these cases are appended.

A total of one hundred and eleven water samples were taken during the year, made up of sixty-nine samples taken from local supplies and forty-two from the mains. These were analysed at the Public Health Laboratory, Birkenhead.

The classification of results of water analyses is made as suggested in the Ministry of Health's Report on "The Bacteriological Examination of Water Supplies" based on the Presumptive Coli count taken in conjunction with the type of supply.

Waters are graded as follows:—

| Treated Waters. | Presumptive Coli per 100 ml. |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Class 1. Highly Satisfactory | Less than 1 |
| 2. Satisfactory | 1-2 |
| 3. Suspicious | 3-10 |
| 4. Unsatisfactory | Over 10 |

Untreated Waters.

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Class A. Satisfactory | Under 10 |
| B. Fairly Satisfactory | 10-25 |
| C. Suspicious | 25-50 |
| D. Unsatisfactory | 50-75 |
| E. Very Unsatisfactory | Over 75 |

42 samples were taken from mains supplies of Statutory undertakers of which—

38 were Highly Satisfactory or Class 1.

2 were Fairly Satisfactory or Class 2.

1 was suspicious or Class 3.

1 was unsatisfactory or Class 4.

The two unsatisfactory supplies were from comparatively new sections of main extensions and repeat samples after flushing of the mains resulted as Class 1.

69 samples were analysed from the untreated waters from isolated supplies, with the following results.

| | | |
|-------|-------|-------------------|
| A. 34 | ..... | 34 premises. |
| B. 8 | ..... | 8 premises. |
| C. 5 | ..... | 5 premises. |
| D. 9 | ..... | from 7 premises. |
| E. 13 | ..... | from 10 premises. |

Three E results on samples taken from the bar tap and living quarters of a licensed premises at Tilston showed heavy faecal pollution.

Investigations led to the discovery of a choked effluent pipe from the septic tank, which had caused backing up of the drains and seepage of sewage through the defective brickwork of a distant inspection chamber situated near the well which was the source of the premises water supply.

The cause was remedied, a new disposal system provided for the tank effluent and the inspection chamber brickwork repaired.

The surrounding soil, the well itself, storage cisterns and pipes were all sterilized and subsequent check samples have all proved Class A.

It should be noted that this drainage installation was laid many years ago before the present strict drainage supervision was in force. It is the practice today to prohibit a drain near to a well, unless special precautions against such an occurrence as reported above, are taken in the construction.

If a carrier of the enteric group of diseases had used the conveniences, the risk of an epidemic in the residents or customers of this establishment would have been very real. The Council have approved a scheme to bring mains water to these premises as soon as permitted.

As required by the Ministry the following are brief reports of action taken following other unsatisfactory samples from isolated supplies at 21 premises.

(1) Shallow Well at Burwardsley Village (1 cottage).

Occupiers advised to boil water for dietetic purposes pending connection to the available main supply which has been requested of the owners.

(2) Shallow Well, Burwardsley (1 dilapidated cottage).

Demolition order made on the cottage which is now vacated.

(3) Shallow Well serving two cottages, Bradley.

Boiling notices sent. These premises are on the line of the proposed Agden main scheme.

- (4) **Shallow Well, Horton Green** (2 cottages).

Cleaning out of the pump and repairs to the well soffit to exclude surface contamination resulted in check samples proving satisfactory.

- (5) **Cross of t'Hill, Malpas** (6 cottages) **Shallow Well**.

The owner has agreed to connect to the available main supply.

- (6) **Handley** (5 premises) **Shallow Well**.

Now connected to new mains supply.

- (7) **Ashton** (1 house) **Shallow Well**.

Now on mains supply.

- (8) **Edge** (2 cottages) **(bore)**.

Pump cleaned out. Follow up samples satisfactory.

- (9) **Tushingham** (1 house) **Shallow Well**.

Alternative satisfactory supply now used.

- (10) **Shallow Well (Bawbrook Malpas)** (Old cottage).

Boiling notices sent. Connection to the distant main would be an unreasonable expense. Repairs to well soffit required and subsequent samples A and B.

HOUSING.

The problem of preserving the life of old substandard cottages in the District for a few more years in the present state of housing demand and supply is one of the most difficult tasks in the day to day work of your sanitary inspectors which may not be generally appreciated.

The financial and legal problems involved in getting first aid repairs carried out to old dwellings by an owner whose income from the property is restricted to pre-war standards while costs of repairs have trebled or more, is considerable. The legal position is defined in Section 9 and 11 of the Housing Act, 1936. It is not generally realised that if the term "repairable at reasonable expense" was adopted in an arbitrary way the number of old cottages on which representations for demolition would have to be made would jump alarmingly.

Local authorities have had their enthusiasm for the use of Section 9 (under which repairs have been required by notice) considerably damped by the results of recent legal decisions following such notices, where the courts decided that the costs of repairs required were unreasonable. This state of affairs tends to undermine the authority of the Council in the eyes of the public, and adds to the difficulties of sanitary officers.

Where however, the Council rehouse a family in a new house on the grounds of the substandard condition of their old accommodation, it is generally found that such accommodation is so far beyond economic repair that an official representation is made unless agreement with the owners concerned can be reached on the question of reconditioning. In certain cases an owner who intends to have the house re-occupied by himself or a close relative is consequently prepared to spend an uneconomic sum on reconditioning which he would not contemplate while the cottage was tenanted by a stranger on a restricted rent.

In other cases of paired or terraced dwellings the vacated cottage may be taken in with the adjoining cottage and reconstructed to make one good dwelling with reasonable amenities in place of two substandard dwellings.

It has been stated that such action as above to make one tolerable house from two substandard dwellings is wrong as the actual effect is the loss of one dwelling. This is confused thinking as it actually avoids the inevitable loss of two substandard houses by demolition, if such reconstruction was not carried out before further deterioration of the properties prevented such action.

A great deal of public money is being expended on new housing throughout the country and provided a reasoned and practical policy is sympathetically pursued in regard to the accommodation vacated by new Council tenants, is it not now time to try to clear even slowly those old and decrepit dwellings which are beyond reasonable repair and which are in fact isolated rural slums?

In November, 1951, the Sanitary Inspector's Association submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government a memo on "The Effect of Rent Restriction on the repair of Dwellinghouses," in an effort to draw further attention to our practical difficulties.

It will be seen from the table of statistics that the number of informal notices have increased on the previous year but it was found necessary to serve only 4 statutory notices on owners under the Public Health Act, 1936.

For reasons explained in the foregoing paragraphs the number of Demolition Orders made remains comparatively low. One Closing Order was made.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

| | |
|--|-----|
| (i) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health & Housing Acts) | 725 |
| (ii) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head above) inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations (Housing Applications) | 311 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| (iii) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 6 |
| (iv) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the previous subhead) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation. | 165 |
| 2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices. | |
| Number of defective dwelling houses rendered reasonably fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers | 152 |
| 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year. | |
| (a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936. | |
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring repairs | — |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses rendered fit after service of formal notices | — |
| (b) Proceedings under Section II of the Housing Act, 1936:— | |
| Number of premises on which Demolition Orders were made | 3 |
| Number of premises on which undertakings were offered by owners | 3 |
| Number of premises on which undertakings were accepted by the Council | 3 |
| (c) Public Health Act, 1936. | |
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 4 |
| Outstanding at end of 1950 | — |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:— | |
| (a) By owners | 4 |
| By Local Authority in default of owners | — |
| Outstanding at end of 1951 | — |

Council House Tenancies.

The records of housing applications and allocations are supervised by your Chief Housing Officer and full reports on the housing need of each applicant is investigated by personal visits to the house by one of your Sanitary Officers.

This procedure enables the Selection Committees to have reliable reports on the state of the applicant's dwelling, their desirability as a tenant, and any confidential health grounds such as

pulmonary tuberculosis etc., of any members of the family, from the records kept by the department, and information supplied by the family doctor.

It is generally recognised that the responsibility of selecting tenants is an unenviable task for any Committee, but I think it should be recorded that while some criticism from disappointed applicants is expected to follow publication of the selected tenants, there has also been congratulation on the Council's fairness from more impartial sources.

At the close of the year the Housing Application Register totalled 273, comprising 71 from applicants in agricultural employment and 202 from non-agricultural workers.

New Council Houses occupied during the year totalled 30 (see table), of which 13 were reserved for agriculture.

Total Number of Council Houses tenanted at Dec.

31st, 1951 414

Total Number of above reserved for Agriculture 129

POST WAR HOUSING.

Houses Tenanted between January 1st — December 31st.

| | 1946 | 1947 | 1948 | 1949 | 1950 | 1951 |
|-----------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Ashton | — | — | — | — | — | 6 |
| Beeston | — | — | — | — | 4 | — |
| Nomansheath, Bickley | — | 6 | — | — | — | — |
| Broxton | — | — | — | 4 | — | — |
| Coddington | — | — | — | 1 | 3 | — |
| Duddon | — | 8 | — | — | — | — |
| Edge | — | — | — | 8 | — | — |
| Farndon | — | 3 | 21 | — | — | — |
| Gatesheath | — | — | — | — | 8 | — |
| Huxley | — | — | — | — | — | 3 |
| Kelsall | — | 8 | — | — | 9 | 13 |
| Malpas | — | — | 11 | 27 | — | — |
| Oscroft | — | — | 4 | 2 | 2 | — |
| Shocklach | — | — | 4 | — | — | — |
| Tarvin | — | 4 | — | — | 6 | — |
| Tattenhall (Edgecroft) | 1* | 1* | — | 4 | 2 | — |
| Tattenhall | — | 16 | — | 3 | 13 | 2 |
| Tilston | — | — | 8 | — | 4 | — |
| Tiverton | — | — | — | — | — | 6 |
| Waverton | — | — | — | — | 4 | — |
| Total | 1 | 46 | 48 | 49 | 55 | 30 |

*Conversion of large house to two dwellings.

This table is compiled from the actual dates from which the rents commenced.

Regulation 68a.

Housing conditions in the district are still such as to warrant the renewal of licences issued under Regulation 68a of the Defence Regulations to permit occupation of condemned cottages which are maintained up to a minimum standard of fitness. Three such licences were renewed during the year in respect of premises at Oscroft, Farndon, and Malpas, on which Demolition Orders are operative.

Premises under Requisition.

Four houses, respectively situated at Tattenhall, Malpas, Threapwood and Farndon are still held under requisition.

Squatters.

The old army camp at Beeston, which consists of four wooden huts and one nissen hut used as a wash-house, is still occupied by four families (8 adults, 9 children). Each hut is fitted with one or two slow combustion stoves, and is provided with a separate pail closet chamber, and a separate dustbin. There is a mains water supply to a standpipe on the site, and an extension to a tap in the wash-house. Refuse collection is carried out fortnightly. This accommodation is sub-standard and can be tolerated only as a temporary measure until the housing situation is improved.

Housing Act, 1949.

In January, 1951, the Ministry of Health issued Practice Notes on the above Act with Circular 4/51.

I regret to report that for the reasons explained in previous Annual Reports there have been no grants made by the Council during 1951.

It is to be hoped that this Act will soon be amended to give Rural Districts additional assistance in encouraging owners to reconstruct suitable rural cottages. At present County Boroughs, Urban and Rural District with their widely differing conditions, have the same provisions and standards of the Act to administer. For example, water supply and sewage treatment and disposal in most Rural Districts are expensive items which cannot be and should not be divorced from the standard laid down which includes fixed bath, W.C., and sink; with proper arrangements for disposal of their wastes.

Mains water and sewers are the rule in densely populated areas but often are just not available where suitable properties in a Rural District need such assistance as was hoped the Act would supply. The £600 cost limit applies to all areas alike and is the factor which prevents many owners from using the provisions of the Act.

During 1951 approaches were made by owners in respect of three houses, but after investigation into costs and the procedure necessary the applications were not proceeded with.

Two other applications are still under consideration by the Ministry in respect of 4 almshouses at Malpas where a sewer and mains water is available, and five cottages at Harthill where a piped water supply exists and an estate sewerage scheme has been approved.

There seems to be a misunderstanding as to the conditions of the grant available under the Act. Applications for a grant can only be made in respect of **improvements** to house property such as bath, food store, hot water system, etc. The cost of ordinary repairs to a property cannot be included in an application for grant and the house must comply with the requirements laid down in the Act and to the practice notes issued by the Ministry.

DRAINAGE.

With regard to drainage proposals in connection with new buildings there is close co-operation between the Surveyor's and the Public Health Departments. Plans of new buildings and extensions to existing buildings deposited with the Council's Surveyor are sent to the Public Health Department for examination and approval as to the drainage disposal arrangements. It is quite common for plans of a dwelling to be deposited showing lines of drainage ending in an arrow marked "To septic tank and filter" when investigations on the site show that there is no existing tank and there is insufficient fall for a filter.

Often no satisfactory means are provided for disposal of the effluent.

This emphasis on the efficiency of any proposed treatment works to isolated premises will bring good results in preventing excessive pollution of ditches and water courses which has been so common in past years.

The request for the services of your Sanitary Officers for advice in the construction and layout of treatment works to such isolated buildings is increasing. In addition to their academic qualifications they have the advantage of being in everyday contact with small disposal schemes under varying conditions, and they test and observe the comparative efficiency of different types of works.

The use of the apparatus for testing the pollution load of an effluent is of great assistance in this work.

Education in hygiene and cleanliness has given rise to general demand for modern sanitary fittings and appliances and the Public Health Department is anxious to encourage better

conditions throughout the district wherever possible, to improve sanitary environment and to lesson the risk of nuisance from drainage effluents.

During the year ninety-two drainage plans were deposited and approved. All involved visits of your inspectors to the sites and a great many incorporated amendments and improvements suggested as a result of such inspections.

Many requests for advice on existing septic tank installations were also received by the Department. Most trouble from any single cause is experienced from the chokage of septic tanks with sludge.

Many small sewage works are not maintained after the initial installation as they should be, and this neglect leads to expense and inconvenience which could be avoided with a little regular supervision.

As mentioned, the main cause of trouble is the excessive accumulation of sludge in the tank which in time is carried over to the filter or into the irrigation drains, causing choking of the system.

The tank should be inspected from time to time (say quarterly) and the tank sludge cleared out before it reaches anywhere near the outlet from the first chamber.

Reduction of the length of irrigation drains from the necessary amount recommended according to the type of site soil, and insufficient or wrong type of hardcore in the irrigation drains are other common causes. To clean, relay or extend sludge choked effluent drains because of neglect or to save a small initial expense at the time of installation, is false economy.

Rivers and Streams.

The Rivers (Prevention of Pollution) Act, 1951, came into force on October 1st in all River Board areas. The Tarvin Rural District is in the area of the River Dee and Clwyd Catchment Board and close co-operation exists between your public health officers and the Boards' officials.

The Rivers Board is now the responsible authority with powers intended to prevent pollution of rivers and streams in their catchment areas. The Rivers Pollution (Prevention) Acts, 1876/93 under which local authorities had certain duties, have been repealed.

The Board may set up standards for effluents and lay down conditions that must be satisfied before any new discharge is made to a stream. A gradual improvement in the quality of our rivers and streams may be expected as the Board settles down to its formidable task.

The past efforts of your Sanitary Inspectors to improve drainage effluents, particularly those from farms with a high pollution load is continuing side by side with the work of the board.

One point of pollution of the River Dee at Farndon is happily now in process of being cured. The Ministry have permitted the sewerage scheme for this village to proceed and at the time of this report the work is progressing steadily.

Your Works Committee are giving attention to the schemes for Kelsall and Tarvin, where pollution of watercourses is very evident, particularly in the summer months.

The sewerage scheme for Ashton should cure the pollution of the village stream which at present is acting as the receiver of sullage and crude sewage effluents from most of the premises there.

General Sanitation.

Closet Accommodation.

New dwelling houses erected during the the year by private enterprise have all been supplied with water closets. In addition your Sanitary Officers have been very busy on conversion of pail and privy middens to water closets in the several cases of older premises having improvements carried out to their internal sanitation.

All Council Houses built, except six at Ashton awaiting the new sewer, had water closets installed.

During the year a further 44 pail closets and 3 privy middens were converted to water carriage. 102 new water closets were installed.

The approximate figures for the whole district at the end of 1951 were:—

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| Privy Middens | 533 |
| Pail Closets | 1837 |
| Water Closets | 2216 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 4586 |
| | <hr/> |

REFUSE AND SALVAGE.

This important public health service is coping with a steadily growing demand.

The whole District is served by two ten cubic yard Dennis Wagons and one 7 cubic yard Austin Eagle wagon all of the side loading type.

The increasing volume of refuse being collected year by year as new private and Council building is carried out and householders purchase dustbins has necessitated revision of schedules. In some areas a full wagon load is obtained today whereas a few years ago a half full wagon would be able to go on to another area to complete its load before tipping.

For this reason your Public Health Committee decided to purchase a 10 cubic yard Dennis wagon to replace the 7 cu. yd. Austin wagon bought in 1942.

This change has been brought about by a growing awareness of residents of the value of the service, and whereas previously many disposed of their refuse by dumping in a field or depression, they now provide a bin and require a regular collection. This change is also instanced by the number of requests received by the office for accumulations of refuse of years to be removed now that proper bins have been provided. A charge based on actual cost is made for such special clearances which often made a full load on their own.

Several hundred dustbins have been supplied by the Council during the past few years to private owners and Council Houses and during the year ending March, 1952, a further 56 bins were sold to private owners and 44 supplied to new Council Houses.

Despite this steadily increasing volume of refuse collected, I am glad to report that the labour employed has not been increased. This has been made possible by rationalising the service; by restricting the type of salvage collected to what can be easily handled and sold; at the same time preserving the main function of **refuse** collection.

In order to keep up regular collection in villages and built up areas the service to some outlying areas has been extended to four weeks by resolution of the Public Health Committee when statutory holidays, sickness, breakdowns and annual leave compels re-adjustment of schedules.

Unfortunately as with every other undertaking, expenses have gone up and up and strenuous efforts have been necessary to keep down costs to a reasonable level.

It is fortunate that there are adequate facilities in the District for cheap disposal, which is by controlled tipping at selected sites in various parts of the district which avoids long lengths of haul.

This method has also the merit of reclaiming valuable agricultural land in the district previously disused, and avoids the heavy expense of incineration.

Tipping sites have been completed and sealed at Waverton and Ebnal, and new sites offered free and accepted at Waverton and Stretton.

At the close of the year tips were in operation at Clotton, Golborne Bellow, Barton, Malpas and Waverton, and Bickley Moss.

In the latter part of the year work on the proposed Refuse Depot at Tattenhall Road was commenced.

Salvage.

A restricted salvage service is run in conjunction with the refuse collection and not as a separate project.

Details of each class of salvaged material sold in the financial year ending March 31st, 1952, compared with the previous twelve months are as follows:—

| | 1951-52 | Prev. Year. |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Waste Paper | £281 11 0 | £174 5 9 |
| Scrap Metal | 21 0 0 | 14 0 0 |
| Rags and Sacking | — — — | 40 5 2 |
| Bones | 1 13 3 | 2 13 10 |
| | <hr/> £304 4 3 | <hr/> £231 4 9 |

The nett cost of the Refuse and Salvage service during the year ending March 31st, 1952, was £4,132.

This is equivalent to a rate of 1s. 1.77d. The increase over the previous years costs was caused by rises in the price of petrol, and men's wages. The latter are subject to the National Scale, over which the Council have little or no control in their efforts towards economy in operation of the service.

Litter Campaign.

During the year your Public Health Committee considered the question of the littering of village streets which has been the subject of complaint from time to time by residents.

The campaign to "Keep Britain Tidy" sponsored by the Institute of Public Cleansing has also drawn attention to the practice of children and others throwing away indiscriminately empty ice cream tubs and paper wrappers which were generally found in the neighbourhood of ice cream retailers.

It was decided to circularise all such retailers in the district to request (a) that a copy of the County Anti-litter Byelaws supplied to them should be displayed in their shops and (b) that a suitable receptacle for empty wrappers be provided by the trader to encourage customers to be litter conscious.

The head teachers of all the schools in the Tarvin Rural District were also asked to co-operate by telling their pupils to use such receptacles for litter, or their dustbins at home.

Where licensed premises are used by coaches it has often been found that the area round the premises is subject to littering with paper bags etc. The respective breweries were very helpful and on request fixed wire baskets outside their hotels to encourage customers to abstain from throwing waste papers about. The occupier maintains and empties these containers.

Some improvement has been noted since these steps were taken.

Camping Sites.

No licences under the Public Health Act, 1936, have been issued by the Council during the year, in relation to sites or individual movable dwellings.

Planning powers have continued to be used in respect of the large aggregation of vans and sheds at Weetwood, and in regard to caravans brought into the District for use as permanent dwellings.

Following service of notices on owners at Weetwood site, a number of appeals were heard at an inquiry held by the Ministry of Local Government and Planning. All the appeals failed but certain appellants were granted extended time in which to remove their caravans or other erections.

The number of habitations on the site was drastically reduced by the end of the year and it is hoped that in the near future the land will be cleared and revert to agriculture once again.

At the close of the year one application was under consideration in respect of a small site at Kelsall for the accommodation of five caravans.

The problem of the increasing use of caravans for permanent habitation in consequence of the prevailing shortage of houses is troubling very many local authorities. The genuine holiday camper who stays for a few days or so on holiday is not to be confused with the public health menace who dumps a caravan or converted bus body in a field and takes up permanent residence without a thought of even elementary hygiene or sanitation.

Such action if permitted to go unchecked will result in others joining in, and in a very short time another aggregation of permanent dwellings will have grown up with its attendant evils of overcrowding, foul accumulations scattered litter and refuse, complaints of rowdy behaviour, destruction of amenity and general nuisance as has already been experienced at Westwood.

Applications for approval of the permanent use of movable dwellings should therefore be very carefully considered by the Council if they wish to avoid re-creating such conditions.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The year has been a busy one following the easing of supplies of materials for repairs; and much good but unostentatious work has been done in the District by the officials of the Department.

The sanitary inspector's role of adviser and friend is amply typified by the good results obtained through verbal requests and persuasion, without recourse to official statutory notices. This also explains the low number of formal notices served by the Department. Only in rare cases is it necessary to report a defaulter to the Public Health Committee, and in these the person concerned usually resides at a distance where a personal approach by the sanitary inspectors is impossible.

The following list gives an indication of part of their activities during 1951 where such are not dealt with elsewhere in this report.

| | |
|---|------|
| Informal Notices served re housing defects | 152 |
| " " " " unsatisfactory water supply | 28 |
| " " " " defective drainage | 35 |
| " " " " dirty conditions | 8 |
| " " " " provision of dustbins | 10 |
| " " " " insanitary closets | 7 |
| " " " " foul ditches | 6 |
| " " " " leaking gutters & downspouts | 8 |
| " " " " offensive accumulations | 4 |
| " " " " Food and Drugs Act, 1938 | 6 |
| " " " " Rat infestations | 10 |
| " " " " defects in factories | 5 |
| " " " " Petroleum Spirit Stores | 12 |
| " " " " Food premises | 25 |
| " " " " Licensed premises | 4 |
| No. of written complaints received from the public | 316 |
| No. of inspections made (all purposes) | 3942 |

Shops.

The Council is responsible for the enforcement of the Shops Act, 1950, in respect to the ventilation, lighting, temperature, and sanitary accommodation of shops in the district where labour is employed.

Three cases of defective and dirty sanitary accommodation were found and these were dealt with informally and the necessary work done.

Factories.

Eighty-nine factories are on the register. These include nineteen non-power and seventy power, (including eight building sites). Following inspection, written notices were served on five occupiers. All requirements were complied with, without statutory action.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

| Premises | Number on Register | Number of inspections | Notices served |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| (1) Factories in which Sections. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities | 19 | 31 | 2 |
| (2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority | 62 | 67 | — |
| (3) Roadwork and Building Sites | 8 | 21 | — |
| Totals | 59 | 119 | 2 |

Outworkers.

There were two outworkers on the register during 1951 and inspection of their premises showed satisfactory conditions for home making up of textiles.

Smoke Abatement.

Observations on various commercial chimneys were carried out from time to time but except for one case at Tarvin no grounds for action were reported.

The case mentioned was created owing to a breakdown in the mechanical stoker and was caused by temporary hand firing being carried out in an erratic manner.

Following a verbal warning by the Sanitary Officer and instruction in correct methods there has been no further cause for complaint.

Swimming Baths.

There are no public swimming baths in the District.

Eradication of Insect Vermin.

Where premises are found infested with bed bugs, treatment with Cooper's D.D.T. Bed Bug Spray is used and found effective.

Gammexane powder is issued to tenants whose dwellings show evidence of cockroaches.

D.D.T. tip dressing is found very effective in destroying infestations of crickets on the Council's tips during the summer months. Two such infestations were treated during 1951.

Wettable D.D.T. to mix with limewash is sold at cost to the occupiers of slaughterhouses and similar premises in the District to minimise the fly nuisance in the hot weather.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION.

Since the operation of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, the Council have been the statutory body with increased responsibilities and powers to deal with the destruction of rats and mice on all properties: agricultural as well as non-agricultural.

District Councils have complained in the past of their loss of functions to other bodies. The responsibility for rodent control has now been transferred from County Councils and placed directly on District Councils.

The service is subject to grant under approved conditions and kept as self supporting as far as possible. The very nature of the service however creates the position that the more successfully the Council clear premises of rat infestation the less is the demand for commercial contracts from satisfied users, until re-infestation occurs.

The fecundity and travelling habits of rodents demand constant vigilance and re-inspection of premises, if control is to be real. The part played by rats and mice as spoilers of food and vectors of disease is too well known to be minimised.

At the request of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Rodent Control Division, the County Agricultural Committees are still carrying out their service of pest destruction on farms in this area, and while this in no way affects the right and responsibilities of the local authority to inspect farms and to enter into contracts with farmers if they wish, for the destruction of rats and mice, it is obviously undesirable to duplicate a service dealing with rabbits, moles, and other farm pests, if the same personnel can destroy rats and mice on the same premises.

Rodent control in a Rural District is not a spare time job for a labourer. It requires intelligence, initiative, responsibility, trustworthiness and common sense, in the person or persons carrying out the practical work.

The Council employs a full time Rodent Operative with the part time service of another man as required. If all the 800 farms in the Tarvin Rural District had to be inspected and serviced a very much larger staff would be necessary, and unnecessary duplication of visits by inspectors would be certain to take place. The present arrangement whereby the agricultural committee keep to

the farms and work in co-operation with the public health office is more economical to the Council and more efficient in manpower. It does not in any way derogate from the Council's statutory powers to visit and treat if necessary every type of premises.

Commercial users of the service usually prefer an annual contract, but in large treatments a "cost of works" basis is employed. Private dwellings are treated for a nominal fee .

The Council's several tips, sewers, sewerage works and other properties are regularly inspected and disinfested as found necessary.

The first of the bi-annual 10 per cent test baiting of the Council's sewers during the year showed a negative return and in consequence a certificate of clearance was granted by the Ministry to excuse further test baiting of sewers for the financial year ending March, 31st, 1952.

The Council are members of Workable Area Committee No. 23 which meets quarterly to hear and discuss new techniques etc., brought to the meeting by the Divisional Rodent Officer of the Region. Your representatives on this Committee are the Chairman of the Public Health Committee and the Rodent Officer. Difficulties and differences are aired at these meetings and advice given and received.

The Committee comprises representatives of Chester City, Hoole Urban, Chester Rural and Tarvin Rural Districts as well as British Railways and Service Camps. They are usually well attended.

The following table shows the activities of your Rodent Operative for the year ending December, 1952.

| | |
|---|----------|
| No. of visits made | 1165 |
| No. of contracts treated (other than Council properties) | 85 |
| No. of Council Properties treated | 80 |
| Amount of prebait laid | 8594 ozs |
| Amount of poison bait laid | 6115 ozs |
| Amount of poison bait taken | 2665 ozs |
| Number of dead rats picked up | 2087 |
| Number of dead mice picked up | 18 |
| Estimated total kill (Ministry formula) | 6008 |

Knackers Yard.

A Licence in respect of a knacker's yard at Malpas was renewed. These premises have been operated during the year without complaint.

Schools.

Improvements have been made in the Sanitary arrangements of certain schools following representations to the responsible authorities last year.

Tushingham school is now on mains water supply.

The managers of Clutton school have prepared a scheme for the conversion of pails to water closets. These will be completed as soon as the new sewer at Clutton is available.

Many desirable improvements are held up on financial considerations but it is hoped that in the near future several other conversions and reconstructions will be carried out.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Sixty-eight premises in the District where food is prepared for sale have been frequently visited during the year. Dairy farms are supervised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

This routine work of your inspectors is of great importance to ensure that properly clean conditions and methods are observed in preparing food for sale to the public. A number of improvements have been carried out at the several small caterers in the District who provide for hikers, cyclists and motorists visiting Tarvin R.D.

Two roadside cottages selling refreshments to passing trade were found to be dirty and lacking suitable facilities for food handling. The occupiers were warned and have now ceased the sale of food.

Visitors to any district have the right to expect that food and drink purchased by them have been prepared in reasonably clean and hygienic conditions and their main safeguard in this matter lies in the vigilance of the local sanitary officials. No excuse can be accepted for dirty conditions in premises where food is prepared and sold for human consumption.

Milk.

The supervision of milk production is in the hands of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries but random samples of milk are taken for biological examination from the producer retailers in the District. No adverse reports on these samples were received during the year.

| | |
|--|----|
| Number of Registered Milk Distributors | 12 |
| Number of Supplementary licences issued | 8 |

Ice Cream.

During the year the only ice cream manufacturer in the District registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, ceased to manufacture as he preferred to purchase the manufactured product direct from a firm outside the area. At his request his registration as a manufacturer was cancelled until such time as he wishes to re-commence such process; and he is registered now only for storage and sale.

Twenty-seven premises are registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream, almost all of these are limited to the pre-wrapped product which is less likely to be contaminated than the loose article.

There are a few travelling retailers in the district. Frequent samples are taken by your Sanitary Officers for analysis at the laboratory, and a check is made on the standard of hygiene and cleanliness of the vehicle. Washing facilities with soap, towel, and nail brush are required to be carried (and used) by these travelling retailers.

Reports on the conditions of the premises outside this area where their ice cream is manufactured are received from time to time from the sanitary authorities concerned.

| | |
|---|----|
| Number of samples analysed | 90 |
| Number of samples resulting in Grade 1 | 88 |
| Number of samples resulting in Grade 2 | 2 |
| Number of samples resulting in Grade 3 | — |
| Number of samples resulting in Grade 4 | — |

Food Poisoning.

There were no cases of food poisoning notified in the district during the year.

Dogs in Food Shops.

Following discussion during the year in the House of Commons on the question of the prohibition of dogs in premises where food is sold, the Minister of Food agreed that it was a most unhygienic practice but declined to make regulations on the matter.

In October, 1951, the Ministry issued a circular recommending local authorities to encourage food traders to display a notice to customers in their shops to the following effect: "In the interest of hygiene you are requested not to bring your dog into premises in which food is sold."

Your Public Health Committee authorised the provision of such notices to food shops in the District.

Reports received since show that the general result has been quite good, in the elimination of an undesirable practice.

Meat Inspection.

This branch of food control and inspection is rightly regarded as one of the most important duties of your Sanitary Officers, who are well qualified and experienced in such work. The number of animals killed and inspected during the year (6794) was nearly double that in 1950 (3471). This increase was in all classes of animals but especially in calves, pigs and sheep. The weight of meat condemned was down at 134 tons compared with 138 tons for 1950.

In addition to possessing the normal food inspector's qualification, the Council's inspectorial staff have commenced during the year a special course of Bacteriology and Laboratory Practice in relation to food inspection.

The consumer is safeguarded by the inspection service in that diseased meat is condemned at the slaughterhouse while the maximum amount of wholesome meat is saved for the ration.

Central slaughtering at the Ministry controlled abattoir at Newton-by-Tattenhall ensures that 100 per cent inspection of all carcasses takes place. This central abattoir serves an area roughly conforming to the one hundred square miles of the Tarvin Rural District, together with the additional area of Tarporley in the Northwich Rural District.

Two licensed slaughterhouses situated respectively in the approximate north and south of the District deal with casualties exclusively. The carcasses and offal are inspected at these premises and the meat passed is delivered to the Ministry slaughterhouse for distribution. The inspection of casualty carcasses calls for a high degree of skill and experience. The large number of casualties dealt with may be explained by the fact that the District and surrounding area is engaged predominantly in dairy farming with a consequent high animal population.

It is very desirable in the public interest that the inspection of all animals slaughtered for human food should continue; and if the Ministry of Food should decide in the future to vary the policy of central slaughtering the Council should not re-licence any old slaughterhouse unless they are satisfied (1) that there is a real need for such slaughterhouse and (2) that the premises satisfy the high standard of structure, lairage, water supply, drainage and sewage disposal and sanitary conveniences necessary.

The central slaughterhouse at Newton-by-Tattenhall has been reconstructed by the Ministry to a very much higher standard of efficiency than it was before the Council made representations on the matter. The slaughterhall and cooling room have been re-designed with a view to handling a larger kill more efficiently. An electric hoist and electric saw are also to be installed.

Proper washing and sanitary accommodation for the slaughtermen and staff has been provided; the drains relaid and a sewage disposal works is nearing completion.

Animal Health Division.

Close co-operation with veterinary officers of the Ministry of Agriculture has been maintained. Several cases of congenital tuberculosis found in calves have been reported to the Animal Health Division, resulting in most cases in recognition of tuberculosis in the dams which have then been removed from their herds and slaughtered under the provisions of the Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

Details of animals slaughtered for human consumption in the Council's area during the year under review, with particulars of each class of animal found to be unfit for human consumption are shown in the following table in the form suggested by the Ministry of Health.

Year 1951.

| | Beasts | Cows | Calves | Sheep | Pigs | Total |
|------------------------|--------|------|--------|-------|------|-------|
| Numbers killed | 179 | 1994 | 1320 | 2816 | 485 | 6794 |
| Numbers inspected | 179 | 1994 | 1320 | 2816 | 485 | 6794 |

All Diseases except Tuberculosis.

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Whole carcasses | | | | | | |
| condemned | 4 | 290 | 137 | 3 | 26 | 460 |
| Part carcasses | | | | | | |
| condemned | 93 | 838 | 200 | 568 | 211 | 1910 |
| Percentage affected | 54.2 | 56.5 | 25.5 | 20.3 | 48.9 | 34.9 |

Tuberculosis only.

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|------|------|-----|---|-----|-------|
| Whole carcasses | | | | | | |
| condemned | 5 | 97 | 4 | — | 10 | 116 |
| Part carcasses | | | | | | |
| condemned | 31 | 599 | 1 | — | 34 | 665 |
| Percentage affected | 20.1 | 34.9 | 0.4 | — | 9.1 | 11.51 |

The figures include seven cows slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938, and 32 beasts, 1021 cows, 1300 calves, 62 sheep and 325 pigs dealt with as casualties at the three slaughterhouses.

The total weight of carcass meat and offals found by your Food Inspectors to be unfit for human consumption was 134 tons, 6 cwt. 3 qrs, 0 lbs.

Inspection of Other Foods.

The weight of canned meat and other foods at local shops and depots found to be unfit for human consumption was 2 cwt, 3 qrs, 18 lbs.

Cysticercus Bovis.

15 cases of cysticercus bovis were discovered during the year. 14 cases in cows and 1 in a beast.

These were sited as follows:—

| | External Masseter muscle | Internal Masseter muscle | Other Sites |
|-------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Cows | 10 | 3 | Heart 1 |
| Beasts | 1 | 1 | Diaphragm & neck 1 |

Details were sent to the Ministry of Food in accordance with Circular M.F. 5/48. The carcasses were sent for refrigeration for 21 days as recommended by the Ministry.

Licensed Premises.

Several improvements have been carried out at the request of the Department in relation to the facilities for the washing of glasses, and sanitary accommodation at several licensed premises in the District. The Brewery Companies concerned have readily co-operated in this work.

One case of dirty conditions in the Bar and cellar was dealt with by a warning to the occupier. This licensed house has been kept under observation but no further cause for complaint has been reported.

Food Adulteration.

The following report of work under the adulteration provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, has been supplied by Mr. Stacey Hallard, Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures Department, Cheshire County Council, in relation to the year ending December 31st, 1951.

| Name of Samples | Number obtained | Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality |
|------------------------|--------------------|---|
| Butter | 3 | — |
| Cheese | 2 | — |
| Cooking Fat | 3 | — |
| Ice Cream | 1 | — |
| Jam (Strawberry) | 1 | — |
| Margarine | 3 | — |
| Meat Paste (Beef) | 1 | — |
| Milk | 20 | 1 |
| Rum | 2 | 1 |
| Sausages (Pork) | 1 | — |
| | <hr/> 37 <hr/> | <hr/> 2 <hr/> |

Particulars of Samples not up to Standard.

| No. | Samples | Result of Analysis | Remarks |
|-----|---------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. | Milk. | 9.7% of extraneous water. | Fined £8 and £2/2/0 costs. Retailer. |
| 2. | Rum. | 11.8% excess water | Fined £5 and £2/2/0 costs. |

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS, 1928/36.**Petroleum Stores.**

The Council is responsible for conditions under which petroleum spirit or mixtures are stored in the District. Close co-operation is maintained with the County Fire Brigade who periodically inspect stores of inflammable materials under the Fire Services Act, 1948. Reports on defects in storage conditions are received occasionally. The Council enforce the provisions of the Petroleum Act but no formal notices were served during the year. The most common default was neglecting to provide a suitable type of fire extinguisher. In every case merely informal action was necessary to have this provided.

| | |
|--|----|
| Number of existing licences to store renewed in 1951 | 75 |
| Number of new stores inspected and licensed | 17 |
| Number of transfers of licences | 2 |
| Total number of licensed stores on the Register at December, 1951 | 92 |

National Assistance Act, 1948, Sec. 50.

Under this Act the Council are now responsible for the burial or cremation of the body of any person dying in the District where no other suitable arrangements have been made.

During the year a Latvian farmworker from a displaced persons' hostel died as a result of a road accident. No relatives could be traced after exhaustive enquiry and arrangements were made by the Council for his funeral and burial.

This is the third case within the District since the passing of the Act.

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

The licensing of any premises including a stall or market barrow, where pet animals are sold is now a duty of this Council.

Licences may be refused for premises where the accommodation, temperatures, lighting or cleanliness etc. is considered inadequate, or if arrangements for the animals are not satisfactory.

The Council have appointed their Sanitary Inspectors as Authorised Officers under the Act.

No licences under the Act have been granted during the year.

Rag Flock and other Filling Materials Act, 1951.

This Act provides for the registration by the Council of premises where certain filling materials are used in the manufacture of bedding, toys, baby carriages, and other articles of upholstery.

The manufacture of rag flock is now governed by licence.

Regulations have been made to prescribe the standard of cleanliness for each kind of filling material and the tests to be made.

No applications for registration under the Act were received during the year.

There are certain upholsterers in the District who repair soft furnishings, but at present they are excluded from the requirements to register.

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

South-West Cheshire Divisional Health
Committee

3

ANNUAL REPORT

1951

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3

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INTRODUCTION

During the year the Chairman of the Committee, Coun. J. Groome, of Ellesmere Port Urban District Council, retired from the Chair, which he had held since the formation of the Committee in 1948. He was succeeded by the Vice-Chairman, Coun. S. Grimshaw, Chester Rural District Council.

The Committee decided during the year to recommend the County Council to change the name of the Division from "Ellesmere Port" to "South West Cheshire."

The Committee has held 11 Meetings during the year, the average attendance being 15 members out of a total of 37.

The Division comprises the Ellesmere Port and Hoole Urban Districts and Chester and Tarvin Rural Districts. The total population according to the provisional census figures taken in 1951 was 81,441 and the area is 116,068 acres, which is the equivalent of 0.70 persons per acre. The number of inhabited houses is 20,928 and the combined rateable value is £477,276.

The provision of Child Welfare Centres is now fairly well distributed throughout the Divisional Area. There remain just one or two isolated Centres of population that are without these amenities, notably Boughton and Ince.

There is still a popular demand for places in the two-day Nurseries. This is especially the case at the Ellesmere Port Day Nursery, where a large waiting list is always maintained. The attendance figure at both Day Nurseries are higher than in the previous year. Minor ailments and infectious diseases are the chief factors causing periodic fluctuations in attendances and so reducing the daily average attendances to a modest level.

The work of the Ambulance Service shows no material change from the previous year when the Committee recommended a further Ambulance, together with driver and attendant for its more efficient operation. The Service continued during the year to operate under difficulties with a minimum number of ambulances and staff. The need for more adequate Depot accommodation is a matter for urgent consideration also.

Prevention, Care and Aftercare of Tuberculosis continues to occupy much of the time and activities of the office staff and the County Health Visitors, and involves regular visits to the homes of persons on the Register, enquiries into housing conditions and arrangements for the examination of contacts of new cases. There is much activity also in dealing with the problems of the aged, sick and infirm who are visited with regularity until Hospital or other suitable accommodation is found for them.

There has been steady increase in the use of the Domestic Help Service. A great number of those using this Scheme are the aged, sick and infirm, many of whom are unable, or in some cases unwilling, to secure hospital accommodation.

**NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946 (SECTION 22).
CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN.**

A. Mothers' Clinics.

| | New Cases. | Total Attendances. |
|------------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| Ante-Natal | 457 | 2628 |
| Post-Natal | 123 | 159 |
| Dental: | | |
| Pre-Natal | 2 | 2 |
| Nursing Mothers | 2 | 5 |
| Dentures Supplied | | 1 |

B. Young Children's Clinics.

(1) Infant Welfare:

| | | |
|----------------|-----|-------|
| to 1 year | 948 | 10195 |
| 1-5 years | 278 | 3385 |

(2) Specialist:

| | | |
|---------------------------------|----|-----|
| Ophthalmic | 70 | 190 |
| Dental Treatment (under 5) | 87 | 106 |
| E.N.T. (under 5) | 61 | 65 |

(3) Day Nurseries:

| | Daily Average. No. Attending. | Total Attendances. |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Aged 0-2 years | 22 | 5487 |
| 2-5 years | 58 | 14501 |

Details of figures (where they relate to more than one Clinic)
are given hereunder.

Eye Clinics.

| | New Cases. | Total Attendances. |
|---|------------|-----------------------|
| Hoole | 11 | 21 |
| Ellesmere Port | 59 | 169 |
| Number of children under five for whom spectacles were prescribed | | 40 |
| Number of cases recommended for Hospital treatment | | 22 |

Ante and Post-Natal Clinics.

Hoole:

| | | |
|-----------------|----|-----|
| Ante-Natal | 41 | 100 |
| Post-Natal | 54 | 89 |

Ellesmere Port:

| | | |
|-----------------|-----|------|
| Ante-Natal | 416 | 2528 |
| Post-Natal | 69 | 70 |

Day Nurseries.

| | Daily Average. No. Attending. | Total Attendances. |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Ellesmere Port: | | |
| Aged 0-2 years | 16 | 4088 |
| Aged 2-5 years | 29 | 7273 |
| Little Sutton: | | |
| Aged 0-2 years | 6 | 1397 |
| Aged 2-5 years | 29 | 7220 |

Welfare Centres.

| | New Cases. | | Total Attendances. | |
|---------------------|------------|-----|-----------------------|------|
| | 0—1 | 1—5 | 0—1 | 1—5 |
| Barrow | 13 | 8 | 160 | 141 |
| Ellesmere Port | 353 | 110 | 3909 | 973 |
| Farndon | 26 | 11 | 170 | 110 |
| Hoole | 165 | 37 | 1804 | 257 |
| Huntington | 20 | 8 | 166 | 161 |
| Kelsall | 28 | 3 | 293 | 315 |
| Little Sutton | 102 | 14 | 1436 | 294 |
| Malpas | 24 | 10 | 291 | 143 |
| Saughall | 34 | 19 | 360 | 151 |
| Upton | 71 | 15 | 610 | 277 |
| Tattenhall | 25 | 7 | 283 | 278 |
| Tarvin | 23 | 4 | 255 | 146 |
| Overpool | 65 | 32 | 458 | 139 |
| Totals | 949 | 278 | 10195 | 3385 |

SPECIAL COMMENTS.

Welfare Centres.

The question of supplying and fitting a new boiler at the Ellesmere Port Child Welfare Centre was discussed by the Committee and a quotation for this work was referred to the District Architect for his consideration and any necessary action. The Committee recommended the conversion of part of the pram shelter into an additional Dental Clinic. Consideration of the conversion of the rest of the pram shelter into a cleansing Room and Health Visitors' office was deferred indefinitely.

It was recommended that that upper part of the Hoole Welfare Centre be converted into a flat for use by the Health Visitor.

Steps were taken to improve the heating arrangements at the Overpool Child Welfare Centre.

Arrangements were made with the Ministry of Food for National Dried Milk, Orange Juice and Cod Liver Oil to be made available at Overpool and Little Sutton Welfare Centre.

On 27th June, 1951, the Huntington Welfare Centre was opened at the Village Hall, Huntington, where sessions are held fortnightly on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month.

Arrangements were made with Crosville Motor Services, Ltd., for the provision of a 'bus to run twice monthly between Ince, Elton and Thornton-le-Moors, and the Child Welfare Centre, Ellesmere Port, until a building suitable for holding a Clinic is available in the Ince area.

Day Nurseries:

Ellesmere Port:

Arrangements were made with the Ellesmere Port Urban District Council for the replanting and maintenance of the gardens at the Ellesmere Port Day Nursery and a decided improvement was effected.

Approval was given by the County Staffing and Salaries Committee, for the appointment of a Certificated Nursery Nurse in place of a Probationer.

During the year, the Nursery was broken into twice, and on the second occasion the burglars (small boys) were apprehended. Food was tampered with, but nothing was taken away.

Attendances were maintained during the year, and there were no major interruptions due to infectious disease.

Little Sutton.

During the year, repairs were effected to the chestnut fencing at this Nursery.

Sickness amongst the staff during the year combined with normal staff holidays imposed a strain on the staff and complicated the general maintenance of this Nursery. In an attempt to alleviate this situation a temporary Nursery Assistant was employed during the holiday season.

Attendance were well maintained until the latter part of the year, when an outbreak of Measles in the district affected the Nursery.

General:

Consequent upon the receipt of the Comparative Statement on the cost of Day Nurseries for the year ended 31st March, 1951, a Meeting was arranged with the Matrons of both Day Nurseries, to discuss the matters involved.

The daily costs per child at the Day Nurseries during the year were:—

Little Sutton 10/4d.

Ellesmere Port 10/8¼d.

Toys to the value of £10 were purchased for each of the two Nurseries and successful Christmas Parties were held for the Children.

(SECTION 23)**MIDWIVES.**

Number of births 1496 (Including 36 stillbirths).
(Adjusted for inward and outward transfers).

(SECTION 25)**HOME NURSING.**

A tender was approved for the repair and decoration of the District Nurse's house at Mouldsworth, and electric light was installed at the house of the District Nurse, Malpas.

Several County owned cars used by District Nurse/Midwives received minor and major repairs, and a new Ford Anglia car (8 h.p.) was delivered to the District Nurse, Tilston. The old car, a Morris (8 h.p.) was sold for the sum of £157.

The District Nurse at Upton was supplied with a new bicycle and the Nurse at Hoole with an Autocycle, for their duties.

(SECTION 26)**VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION.**

Measures were taken to publicise immunisation and to encourage parents to take advantage of the services available for the benefit of children. It was decided by the Committee that a Report on these measures be circulated to each Local Authority and General Practitioner in the Division. Investigations were also made, into the possibility of exhibiting Film Trailers in both the Urban and Rural areas of the Division..

Total fees paid for the period 1.7.50 — 31.12.51 amounted to £617 15s. 0d.

Statistics are as stated below:—

A. Vaccination.

| | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1. Primary Vaccination: | | | |
| (1) Pre-School Children | 263 | 246 | 509 |
| (2) School Children | 7 | 8 | 15 |
| (3) Adults | 11 | 31 | 42 |
| Total | <u>281</u> | <u>285</u> | <u>566</u> |
| 2. Re-Vaccination: | | | |
| (1) Pre-School Children | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| (2) School Children | 6 | 4 | 10 |
| (3) Adults | 27 | 75 | 102 |
| Total | <u>35</u> | <u>80</u> | <u>115</u> |

B. Diphtheria Immunisation.

Incomplete.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| (1) Pre-School Children | 137 | 131 | 268 |
| (2) School Children | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Total | <u>139</u> | <u>133</u> | <u>273</u> |

Completed.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| (1) Pre-School Children | 398 | 394 | 792 |
| (2) School Children | 12 | 12 | 24 |
| Total | <u>410</u> | <u>406</u> | <u>816</u> |

Re-Immunisation.

| | | | |
|-------------------|----|----|-----|
| All Children | 59 | 74 | 133 |
|-------------------|----|----|-----|

C. Other Immunisation (e.g. Whooping Cough).

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| (1) Pre-School Children | 35 | 28 | 63 |
| (2) School Children | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| Total | <u>39</u> | <u>30</u> | <u>69</u> |

These figures are not final as records are still being received for services performed during 1951.

(SECTION 27)

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

| | | No. of Vehicles | Total No. of Journeys | Total No. Patients carried | No. of Accident and Emergency Journeys included in Column 3 | Total Mileage |
|---|------|--------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|--|------------------|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| A. Directly (Amb.) | .... | 3 | 2702 | 4995 | 454 | 51593 |
| Provided (Cars) | .... | 2 | 1604 | 3188 | 34 | 43007 |
| B. By Agency (Amb.) | .... | 5 | 895 | 895 | 158 | 11636 |
| (Cars) | .... | — | — | — | — | — |
| (Chester City Amb.) | | | | | | |
| C. Supplementantry | | | | | | |
| (Amb.) | .... | — | — | — | — | — |
| (Cars) | .... | — | 681 | 815 | — | 18179 |
| (W.V.S. Taxi, etc.) | | | | | | |
| D. No. of Drivers (other than Commercial) available for | | | | | | |
| Supplementary Services included in "C" above | .... |  |  |  |  | 8 |

It will be observed from the Table set out below that mileage performed by vehicles of the Divisional Ambulance Service has not materially altered during the past year, viz.—

| | Mileage 1950 | Mileage 1951 |
|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| C.C.C. Ambulances | 51193 | 51593 |
| C.C.C. Cars | 47502 | 43007 |
| Totals | 98695 | 94600 |

A Sub-Committee formed to review the existing arrangements for Ambulance Services in the Division recommended that the staff and vehicle establishments be increased by one ambulance, one car, two drivers and one attendant, and that a new Depot be provided.

It was agreed that an area of land, approximately 2,520 square yards, should be acquired. This land is situated on the site of the proposed Ellesmere Port Town Centre and adjacent the new Fire Station Site.

On 17th April, a new Austin 16 h.p. Sitting Case Car was received to replace the Ford 10 h.p. car, which was transferred to a District Nurse in the Bebington Division.

Two accidents occurred during the year involving the Humber Ambulance and the Standard Sitting Case Car respectively.

Safe Driving Diplomas for 1950 were presented to the following drivers:—

Stanley Barratt; Fred Beautyman; Leonard Thomas Lloyd.

The presentation was made by the Chairman at a Meeting of the Divisional Health Committee, and the Press were invited to attend. After the presentation a further award was received in respect of a driver (A. Whiteley) who had over 15 years safe driving to his credit.

As a result of the resignation of a Sitting Case Car Driver, an Ambulance Attendant was promoted to Sitting Case Car Driver and a new Ambulance Attendant appointed in his place. A further vacancy caused by the resignation of an Ambulance Attendant was also filled.

A list of premises and sites proposed to be earmarked in connection with Civil Defence Ambulance Services in this Division was approved by the Committee.

The establishment of vehicles and personnel as fixed by the Divisional Committee and approved by the County Staffing Committee is as follows:—

| Vehicles. | | Personnel. | |
|-------------------|---------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| Ambulances | 3 | Senior Driver | 1 |
| Sitting Case Cars | 2 | Ambulance Drivers | 2 |
| | | Ambulance Attendants | 3 |
| | | Sitting Case Car Drivers | 2 |
| | | Part Time Drivers | 2 |
| | <hr/> 5 <hr/> | | <hr/> 10 <hr/> |

(SECTION 28)

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS — CARE AND AFTER-CARE. TUBERCULOSIS.

A. Number of cases investigated in Division:—

(1) **Tuberculosis:**—

- | | |
|---|----------|
| (a) No. of forms C. & A.C.4. completed | 33 |
| (Primary investigation). | |
| (b) No. of forms C. & A.C.22. completed | 216 |
| (Follow-up visits). | |
| (c) No. of cases where patient has been found to have:— | |
| (a) Removed from area | 1 |
| (b) Been cured | 2 |
| (c) Died | 4 |

(2) Other than Tuberculosis 48

All cases of chronic illness awaiting admission to Chronic Wards or suitable Institutions are visited regularly by Health Visitors until admission is effected.

B. No. of cases placed in employment (Disabled Persons Act). 2
(Handymen at Ellesmere Port Day Nursery).

C. Particulars of loans of nursing equipment, charges made and details of applicants unable to pay full amount:—

One case was brought to the attention of the Committee of a person unable to pay deposit and rental charges in connection with the loan of a wheelchair. It was resolved to waive the charges.

A new shelter was provided and repairs executed on a shelter already in use.

The No. 3 Mass Radiography Unit paid a further visit to the Ellesmere Port District from 24th October, 1951, to 28th December, 1951, thus providing a valuable aid in connection with Prevention, Care and After-Care in this Division.

Arrangements were made for the admission of four cases into Convalescent Homes under the County Council Scheme, two mothers with their children and two elderly people recovering from illnesses.

On 12th September, 1951, members of the Committee and officials paid a visit to Barrowmore Hospital and Industries, and were extremely impressed with the excellent work carried out at this establishment for the treatment and care of cases of tuberculosis.

Statistics relating to Tuberculosis cases in the Division are given overleaf.

Statistics relating to cases of Tuberculosis on Notification Registers of District Councils in the Division.

| | MALES. | | | FEMALES. | | | TOTALS. | | |
|---|-----------|---------------|-------|-----------|---------------|-------|-----------|---------------|-------------|
| | Pulmonary | Non-Pulmonary | Total | Pulmonary | Non-Pulmonary | Total | Pulmonary | Non-Pulmonary | Total Cases |
| 1. Cases on Register at 1.1.51. | 165 | 77 | 242 | 160 | 67 | 227 | 325 | 144 | 469 |
| 2. Cases notified & transfers into area during year | 35 | 4 | 39 | 17 | 2 | 19 | 52 | 6 | 58 |
| 3. No. of cases removed from register during year | 19 | 2 | 21 | 12 | 2 | 14 | 31 | 4 | 35 |
| 4. Cases on Register at 31.12.51. | 183 | 79 | 262 | 175 | 67 | 242 | 358 | 146 | 504* |

*This figure is made up as follows:—

| | Non-Pulmonary. | | Non-Pulmonary. | | Total. |
|-------------------------------|----------------|--------|----------------|--------|--------|
| | Pulmonary. | Total. | Pulmonary. | Total. | |
| 1. Ellesmere Port U.D.C. | 180 | 69 | 249 | | |
| 2. Hoole U.D.C. | 41 | 10 | 51 | | |
| 3. Chester R.D.C. | 76 | 28 | 104 | | |
| 4. Tarvin R.D.C. | 61 | 39 | 100 | | |
| Total | 358 | 146 | 504 | | |

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED 1951.

| DISTRICT. | DISEASE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|----------------|----|-----------------|----|----------------------|---|----------|-----|-------------|---|------------------|----|------------|----|---------------------------|---|
| | Scarlet Fever. | | Whooping Cough. | | Acute Poliomyelitis. | | Measles. | | Diphtheria. | | Acute Pneumonia. | | Dysentery. | | Enteric or Typhoid Fever. | |
| | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F |
| Ellesmere Port U.D. | 29 | 24 | 45 | 48 | 1 | 3 | 190 | 195 | — | 2 | 10 | 13 | 3 | 3 | — | — |
| Hooie U.D. | 11 | 6 | 19 | 24 | — | — | 30 | 24 | — | — | 3 | 1 | — | — | 1 | — |
| Chester R.D. | 9 | 5 | 28 | 12 | 1 | — | 121 | 117 | — | — | 20 | 24 | 12 | 15 | 2 | 1 |
| Tarvin R.D. | 6 | 9 | 16 | 15 | — | — | 153 | 140 | — | — | 25 | 19 | 12 | 10 | — | — |
| Totals. | 55 | 44 | 108 | 99 | 2 | 3 | 494 | 476 | — | 2 | 58 | 57 | 27 | 28 | 3 | 2 |

(SECTION 29)

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

There has been a steady increase in the number of applications for Domestic Helps and the number of cases attended in the Divisional Area. A review of these cases shows that over 40% of the cases attended during the financial year 1950/51 were old age pensioners. A total of 30,231½ hours were performed and contributions were received to the amount of £189 19s. 4d. The total cost to the County Council on these cases amounted to approximately £2,833.

Every effort was made, in conjunction with the Health Visitors, to keep costs down to a minimum without impairing the efficiency of the Service.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| A. Number of new applicants | 182 |
| B. Number of Domestic Helps working:— | |
| (a) Permanent | 1 |
| (b) Temporary | 121 |
| C. Number of cases attended | 216 |
| D. Special cases for report | 24 |

Twenty-four cases were brought to the attention of the Committee during the year. In six cases, no reduction was allowed; in ten cases the contribution was reduced, and no contribution was required in five cases. Two cases of long standing arrears were written off as irrecoverable as also was a third amount due to the death of the patient.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 — PART III.

In my capacity as the Representative of the County Medical Officer of Health, I carried out my usual visits of inspection to Shotwick House, Great Saughall. Very little change had taken place since 1950 and the excellent conditions of this establishment continued to maintain a high level.

HEALTH EDUCATION.

During Hoole Festival Week a Baby Show was held at which leaflets and posters were provided for exhibition and distribution; these posters and remaining leaflets were afterwards distributed to Welfare Centres in the Division.

Posters dealing with the treatment of Venereal Disease and Diphtheria Immunisation were sent to Welfare Centres and Council Offices for exhibition.

A meeting was convened by the Hoole Old People's Welfare Committee at which the County Welfare Officer, the Deputy County Medical Officer, the Divisional Medical Officer, a Health Visitor and a District Nurse were invited to give short addresses on the measures taken in the County for the welfare of the aged.

PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH

Two districts within the Division (Hoole and Tattenhall) were selected by the Medical Research Council, for research which was carried out with regard to poliomyelitis.

DIVISIONAL OFFICE STAFF.

Consequent upon his appointment to the County Health Department, Mr. A. S. Jones resigned his position as Chief Clerk to the Divisional Committee, as from 1st June, 1951.

Five applicants on the short list were interviewed by the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and the Divisional Medical Officer, and Mr. G. O. Ellis of Oswestry was appointed to fill the vacancy created. Mr. Ellis commenced his duties on 25th June, 1951.

RE-NAMING OF DIVISIONAL AREA.

It was decided to recommend the County Council to change the name of the Divisional Area to "South West Cheshire Division." The approval of the County Health Committee was obtained and the change was effected during the week-ended 23rd June, 1951.

ESTIMATES 1952/53.

The estimates for the year 1952/53 were submitted, and the following summary was recommended to the County Health Committee for approval and inclusion in the block estimates, viz.

| | £ |
|--|-------------------|
| Vaccination and Immunisation | 410 |
| Domestic Help Service | 7043 |
| Ambulance Service | 11418 |
| Health Propaganda | 25 |
| Child Welfare Centres | 6018 |
| Day Nurseries, Ellesmere Port & Little Sutton | 11568 |
| Ante-Natal Clinic, Ellesmere Port | 445 |
| Home Nursing | 700 |
| Occupational Therapy | 25 |
| Convalescent Treatment for Mothers and Babies | 150 |
| Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care | 145 |
| Administration | 3538 |
| Total | <hr/> 41485 <hr/> |

